

3795. Misbranding of "Universal Rheumatic Remedy." U. S. v. Read Drug & Chemical Co.
Plea of nolo contendere. Fine, \$50. (F. & D. No. 6150. I. S. No. 5923-e.)

On March 13, 1915, the United States attorney for the District of Maryland, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, filed in the District Court of the United States for said district an information against the Read Drug & Chemical Co., a corporation, Baltimore, Md., alleging shipment by said company, on or about January 13, 1913, from the State of Maryland into the State of Pennsylvania, of a quantity of "Universal Rheumatic Remedy," which was misbranded in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, as amended. The product was labeled: (On carton) "New Style Adopted June 1, 1908. Trade Mark The Universal Rheumatic Remedy. Pat. Aug. 14, 1884. Dr. Herndon's Gypsy's Gift Rheumatic Remedy Alcohol 33%. A thoroughly reliable constitutional remedy for all forms of Rheumatism. This preparation possesses the uncommon quality of doing exactly what is claimed for it, usually relieving the patient in a few hours, and is of great benefit in all cases of Rheumatism. Price \$1.00. Owned and Controlled By the Read Drug & Chemical Co., Baltimore, Md." (On back of carton) "Gypsy's Gift The Guaranteed Remedy for Rheumatism." (On sides of carton) "The only Remedy for Rheumatism yet discovered, which is all-sufficient and speedy in its action on the blood. For the prompt and radical relief of Rheumatism in its worst stages. Prepared only By Read Drug & Chemical Co., Baltimore, Md." (On bottle) "Read's Drugs & Sundries, Sole Owners & Distributors of Goodwin's Preparations, Read's Herndon's Gypsy Gift, Etc. The Gypsy's Gift Contains 33% Alcohol. A Remedy for Rheumatism in all its forms, Acute, Inflammatory or Chronic, Gout, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Swellings, Pains in the Back, Limbs or Joints and all affections due to an excess of Uric Acid in the Blood. Directions: One teaspoonful in water three times a day after meals. Drink freely of pure water. For persons in delicate health, children, or the aged, reduce the dose to suit the case. Price, One Dollar. Owned and Controlled by the Read's Drug & Chemical Co., Baltimore, Md. Prepared only by Read Drug & Chemical Co., Baltimore, Md." (Blown in bottle) "That is medicine which cures."

Analysis of a sample of the product by the Bureau of Chemistry of this department showed that it consisted of a hydroalcoholic solution containing 13.32 per cent solids and 34.70 per cent alcohol; no methyl alcohol present; of the 13.32 per cent solids, 7.26 per cent were mineral and 6.06 per cent non-mineral solids; the mineral solids were mainly potassium iodid; the non-mineral solids contained the alkaloid colchicin with fat and resin and also a small amount of reducing sugars.

Misbranding of the product was alleged in the information for the reason that the following statements regarding the therapeutic or curative effects, appearing on the label aforesaid, to wit: (On bottle) "* * * A remedy for Rheumatism in all its forms." (On carton) "* * * A thoroughly reliable constitutional remedy for all forms of rheumatism." "This preparation possesses the uncommon quality of doing exactly what is claimed for it, usually relieving the patient in a few hours, and is of great benefit in all cases of rheumatism." "For the * * * radical relief of rheumatism in its worst stages." "The only remedy for rheumatism yet discovered which is all-sufficient and speedy in its action on the blood." "* * * The guaranteed remedy for rheumatism," were false and fraudulent in this, that the same were applied to said article knowingly, and in reckless and wanton disregard of their truth or falsity, so as to represent falsely and fraudulently to the purchasers thereof, and create in the minds of purchasers thereof, the impression and belief that it was, in whole or in part, composed of or contained ingredients or medicinal agents effective, among other things, as a remedy for rheumatism in all its forms and effective as a remedy for all forms of rheumatism; and effective as a relief in all cases of rheumatism; and effective as a relief for rheumatism in its worst stages; when, in truth and in fact, said article was not, in whole or in part, composed of

and did not contain ingredients or medicinal agents effective, among other things, as a remedy for rheumatism in all its forms, or effective as a remedy for all forms of rheumatism, or effective as a relief in all cases of rheumatism, or effective as a relief for rheumatism in its worst stages.

On March 13, 1915, the defendant corporation entered a plea of nolo contendere to the information, and the court imposed a fine of \$50.

CARL VROOMAN, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 8, 1915.*